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FROM : AMCONGEN, Lagos, Nigeria NEA 318
MESSAGE CENTER RSP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON. March 8, 1952
DATE

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SUBJECT: Fortnightly Newsletter - February 25 to March 8, 1952.

SUMMARY

The only important development of the two-week period was a decision by shipping conferences in Britain and the United States to refrain from accepting Lagos-Apapa cargo for a few weeks, to allow wharves to be cleared. Port congestion has been serious for some time and vessels frequently must wait as long as three weeks to get up to berths.

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POLITICAL

Serious Port Congestion in Lagos.

Effective March 10, 1952, shipments from U.S. to Lagos and Apapa have been suspended for about three weeks, because of port congestion, to allow wharves to be cleared. The volume of goods passing through Lagos has increased enormously during recent years, while port facilities have not been expanded or improved to any extent. There is now under way, however, a construction program looking toward berth extension to accommodate five more ships, but this will take several years.

Obviously imports will be reduced considerably. The three-week suspension period may well be increased, as there is considerable cargo on the wharves which may take five or more weeks to clear. (See Despatch No. 309 of March 1, 1952.)

Efforts Are Still Being Made to Get Dr. Azikiwe to the Central House.

Many meetings have been held to find ways and means of getting Zik to the House of Representatives at any cost. The latest maneuver is to let Prince Adedoyin become Town Clerk of Lagos, and then have Adedoyin relinquish his membership in the Central House, thus stepping down in favor of Zik. Adedoyin has been approved by the Town Council but not yet by the regional authorities, and it is not at all sure that he would step d own in any case.

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Dr. Azikiwe Unable to Attend Commission Dinner in Philadelphia.

Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe, Federal President of the NCNC, told officers of the American Consulate General this week that he will definitely be unable to attend and speak at an International Fellowship Commission Dinner in Philadelphia during March. Dr. Azikiwe also revealed that Professor Eyo Eta, Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources for the Eastern Region and NCNC leader in the Central House of Representatives, will not be able to go. Dr. Eta was to deputize for Dr. Azikiwe. Dr. Azikiwe said that he is presently trying to persuade Mbonu Ojike, Deputy Mayor of Lagos, to represent Nigeria and Africa at the Commission Dinner.

"Frigidaire" Policy - Campaign to Reduce British Personnel and Increase Employment of Africans.

With the coming of greater self-government, in the form of new legislative assemblies, and a Council of Ministers, most of whose members are Africans there has been an increasing clamor for the elimination of white officials and British Government Departments. New African Ministers, who now outrank British Department heads, are already advocating doing away with the Public Relations and Public Works Departments, on the ground that the first has outlived its usefulness, and that the second actually does no work, but simply employs British to act as coordinators of local construction firms. Now legislators want the head of the (British) Civil Service Commissioner which fills executive posts. Also the Africans have pointed out that there is no real need for British stenographers and typists, as they could be recruited among Africans. Hardly a day passes but that there is a demand to reduce British personnel. While the Africans feel that qualified persons are available, or could be trained, the British often hold different views as regards many positions.

In the legislative assemblies the Action Group has adopted what it calls the "Frigidaire" policy, of "freezing" or withholding approval of appropriations to pay the salaries of more British officers in the Government service. They feel that this will compel the cessation of the continued importation of "redundant expatriate" officers. On the other hand the Action Group is demanding unmistakable evidence of the Africans' ability to hold offices formerly held by British.

White Official Sentenced by African Magistrate.

This week an African magistrate in a Crown Court sentenced a white British Police Superintendent to two months hard labor for contempt of court. He is alleged to have refused to carry out a court order. This sentence was not handed down in a court, and is expected to be appealed.

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Visit of Air Mission From March 2-4, 1952.

An American air mission, composed of six army and navy officers, one civilian, and three sergeants, from the American Legation in Tangier, visited Lagos to inspect airport progress. This is a regular semi-annual trip to many points in Africa. The mission members were put in touch with all high officials interested in aviation and allied activity, and entertained by the Consul General, the Commanding General, and the Governor of Nigeria.

African Businessmen Meet Chief Secretary on Make-up of Special Appointees to House of Representatives.

Seven European businessmen were recently appointed to the Central House to handle interests "not otherwise represented", and Africans feel that some of their number should have been chosen.

Budget of Western Region.

A bill appropriating the sum of £4,671,070 for services in the Western Region in 1952-53 has been passed by the Western House.

ECONOMIC

Representative Visits Nigeria to Revive German-West African Trade.

A Herr Brettschneider, head of the German-African Association, has arrived in Lagos to re-establish trade relations between Nigeria and Western Germany. He is reported to have said that Africa is potentially an excellent market for German goods, particularly motor cars; and that there exist in Africa great possibilities for German engineers and builders. It is understood that he has applied to his Government for substantial credits to German firms who wish to re-establish themselves in Africa.

Before the war, numerous important German firms did business in Nigeria.

Special General Import License System Instituted.

Effective March 31, 1952 the system of quota import licenses is to be replaced by what is called the Special General Import License System. This new system will make no difference in the importation of U.S. goods as they will be in a special category. The Nigerian Government has, however, under the new system increased both the countries from which goods may be imported and the list of items which may be brought in here.

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Proposed Banking Ordinance.

Many well-to-do Nigerians with an excess of capital and only limited investment possibilities, find a profitable use for their money by establishing banks, which are in fact purely money-lending organizations. The result has been a myriad of small banks of extremely limited resources. A regulatory ordinance to correct this situation will be introduced in the House of Representatives in its next session.

The proposed ordinance will require a minimum nominal capital (for firms chartered in Nigeria) of £25,000, one-half of which will be paid-in capital, licensing through the Financial Secretary, restrictive measures concerning certain unsecured loans, requirements for adequate reserves and mandatory periodic statements of account. For banks incorporated outside Nigeria the paid-up nominal capital must be not less than £100,000 and the Nigerian Registrar of Companies must be satisfied on this point.

New Bill Seeks to Empower Governor to Grant Right to British Firm to Exploit Minerals.

If the House of Representatives passes a bill to be placed before it in March by the Attorney General, the right to exploit minerals in Ogaja Province will become exclusive to a British company. The proposed Mineral (Lead-Zinc) Development Ordinance is designed to empower the Governor to grant exclusive prospecting license to the Mines Development Syndicate to explore for minerals in Abakaliki District.

Extensive zinc and lead deposits are said to exist, and this British company has been prospecting in Abakaliki for years. An American company has an interest in the venture and is expected to supply equipment. Under the proposed legislation many minerals would be included.

Motion to Control Prices of Imported Goods Adopted.

In the Western House there was adopted a motion to request the Central Government to control the prices of essential imported goods, such as foods, clothing, bicycles, motor vehicles, and building materials.

Comet Route to be Via East Africa.

British Overseas Airways Corporation will introduce its new jet aircraft, the Comet, on its London-Johannesburg run in May of this year via the East African route. Apparently the Comet will not be used in West Africa until 1955 or 1956.

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Experiments with Antrycide on Cattle.

The experiment conducted by the Nigerian Veterinary Department with antrycide to protect cattle from trypanosomiasis while they are being walked through the tsetse fly belt has met a high degree of success. Apparently complete immunity for cattle is obtained for a period of about two months by innoculations with antrycide. One test, begun in the middle of the rainy period, innoculated twenty cattle and used 10 non-innoculated as controls. Those protected with antrycide were found, by blood tests, to be completely free of the disease after 45 days of continual exposure to infection while two of the 10 controls died and the other 8 were found to be infected.

OTHER

Regional Governments of West and East Plan Total of 450 Scholarships.

Meeting in budget session during February, both the Western and the Eastern Houses of Assembly earmarked substantial sums for scholarships during 1952.

Obafemi Awolowo, leader of the Action Group Government, has announced that the Regional Executive Council has approved the provision for the award of 200 scholarships at a cost of £400 per annum for students in the Western Region. Of the 200 scholarships, it is understood from reliable sources that 50 will be tenable in the United States. Mr. Awolowo and Mr. S. O. Awokoya, Western Regional Minister of Education, have expressed a desire to talk with officers of the American Consulate General with a view to setting up the American awards.

Not to be outdone by the West the NCNC Government in the East has pledged itself to "find a sum of £200,000 for the award of 250 scholarships during the financial year 1952-53, for development of rural areas and local industries", according to Jaja Wachuku, deputy leader of the NCNC Government. Mr. Wachuku said that the scholarships will be awarded to persons from all sections of the region. Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe intimated in a recent conversation with officers of the Consulate General that a larger proportion of the East's grants might be tenable in the U.S. than the proportion contemplated by the West.

Nigerian Artist Chosen to Attend International Conference in U.S.A.

Mr. Omotayo Aiyegbusi of the Survey Department, Lagos, will be among the young artists, composers and architects from 24 countries who will spend three months in the U.S. during 1952 exchanging ideas with their U.S. colleagues. He left Lagos by air March 7 for New York, via Amsterdam, Holland.

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Professor Chukwuemeka of Howard University Returns to Nigeria.

Nwankwo Chukwuemeka, associate professor of mechanical engineering, Howard University, Washington, D.C., is now in Nigeria, the country of his birth, after 13 years' residence in the U.S.

Professor Chukwuemeka has been enthusiastically received by leading Nigerian nationalists, especially those of the NCNC, many of whom he knew during college days in the U.S. In Lagos he was the guest of Deputy Mayor Mbonu Ojike.

His second book "Industrialization of Nige .a", published by in January, is on sale in Nigerian bookshops. He leaves Lagos, Monday, March 10 for Onitsha, his birthplace.

Ibo National College Will Open at Aba on March 14.

The Ibo National College in Aba is scheduled to open on Friday, March 14, and is expected to accommodate 360 boarders by 1957. The Executive Committee of the Ibo State Union votes money for running the college and its various standing committees advise it on different subjects.

The college is to be governed by a Board of Governors comprising Hon. Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe, Hon. Sir Francis Ibiam, Hon. A.C. Nwapa, Hon. J. A. Wachuku, Hon. D. C. Osadebay, Hon. E. I. Oli, Hon. L. N. Mbanefo.

Educational Progress in the North.

A noteworthy feature of the debates in the Northern House of Assembly at Kaduna was the repeated demand for more and better educational facilities for the Moslem North. Many Emirs demanded more secondary schools and one Emir went so far as to demand compulsory secondary education, a request which a few years ago would have been almost revolutionary.

A. W. Childs
Consul General

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